FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PERU'S WAGNER ARRIVES FOR CONTADORA MEETING

PY112206 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1941 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr 87 (TELAM) -- Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon has arrived in the country to participate in the meeting of eight Latin American foreign ministers that will be held in San Carlos de Bariloche.

At Ezeiza Airport he stated the foreign debt cannot be paid under its current contractual terms. When asked about a possible moratorium, Wagner stated that Peru is limiting itself to servicing the debt with 10 percent of the proceeds from its exports, and this is a type of partial moratorium. An overall, absolute, and definitive moratorium would place the world's financial system in serious danger, he added.

CONTADORA GROUPS RELEASE DECLARATION IN ARGENTINA

PY151557 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1902 GMT 14 Apr 87

["Text" of "Buenos Aires Declaration" released by the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group in Buenos Aires]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] The text of the declaration states:

"The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group, who met on 13 April in Buenos Aires, declare:

"1. That the Central American crisis is a conflict that has an effect on the entire region and affects the security, stability, and coexistence of our countries and people.

"2. That the foreign ministers view with extreme concern the stagnant situation of the negotiating process and implementation of the signing of the Contadora Act for Peace and Cooperation in Central America, submitted by the Contadora Group in June 1986. They also recall the commitments made by the UN and OAS secretaries general to cooperate in the implementation of the verification and control mechanisms established in the peace act.

"3. That their commitment to work for peace has been strengthened by many events, such as the upcoming meeting of five Central American presidents in Esquipulas, Guatemala, next June.

"4. That they would like to emphasize the importance of the proposal by Costa Rican President Arias expressing his willingness to reactivate the negotiating process of the Contadora Group, as stated in the letter submitted by the Costa Rican Government through its foreign minister to the Contadora Group and Contadora Support Group on 8 April 1987. One of the paragraphs of the letter states: 'On this occasion, Costa Rica would like to convey to the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group, as already pointed out on different occasions, that this proposal is fully within the framework of the overall Contadora negotiating effort, and that one of its main goals is to create a series of conditions for a well-determined brief timetable, which would allow the resumption of the negotiation of the Contadora Act in order to reach a successful conclusion within the framework of democracy, peace, freedom, and security for each of the Central American countries. [paragraph as received]

'In this regard, the Costa Rican Government would like to state that during the presidential meeting in Esquipulas it will sponsor an agreement among the five countries, which will be either annexed or included in the proposal to be signed, aimed at resuming the negotiation of the Contadora Act as a natural consequence of the implementation of the Costa Rican Plan.'

"5. That the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group have stated their willingness to cooperate actively for the success of the Esquipulas meeting through a process of information and consultation, and that they have agreed to address the Guatemalan Government in an effort to study the mechanisms leading to this goal.

"6. That under the conviction that it is the moral obligation of all the countries involved to contribute to the creation of an appropriate environment for dialogue among the Central American countries, and that it is necessary to prevent a situation that would obstruct this environment during the time left before the Esquipulas meeting, they directly and indirectly exhort all the countries involved in the conflict to refrain from any action, use of force, or intimidation that would affect the outcome of the upcoming Esquipulas meeting.

"7. In conclusion, in addition to the meetings resulting from these initiatives, they agree to meet after the Esquipulas meeting to evaluate its results and to study the forms of cooperation that would help to implement the agreements reached during the summit meeting of Central American presidents, which is aimed at resuming the negotiations of the Contadora Act."

OAS COUNCIL APPROVES FOREIGN DEBT MEETING

PY111937 Paris AFP in Spanish 0337 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (AFP) -- Prime Minister and Economy Minister Luis Alva Castro today announced Peru's proposal that the OAS sponsor an international conference on foreign debt has been approved.

Alva Castro, who is chairman of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council of the Organization of American States (CIES-OAS), announced he has received an official communication stating the Peruvian proposal has been approved. He noted all the 31 CIES member countries have unanimously seconded the Peruvian proposal, and the call for the conference will be made in Washington by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares in the coming days.

Alva Castro said the idea of holding such a conference is part of Peru's efforts to bring about agreements among debtor nations so progress can be made toward a solution to the foreign-debt problem.

ARMED FORCES, GOVERNMENT REACT TO BARREIRO ORDER

Court Requests Arrest

PY161130 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1055 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires and Cordoba, 16 Apr (NA) -- Federal police forces surrounded the 14th Infantry Regiment near Cordoba, where Major Ernesto Guillermo Barreiro is secluded, early this morning. He was dismissed from the Army by the defense minister and his arrest was requested by the Cordoba Federal Court because he did not appear to testify before the court in the La Perla case. According to unofficial reports Barreiros has in that regiment -- and possibly in other units -- the solidarity of an undisclosed number of midlevel officers.

In the meantime, the national and the Cordoba province governments have already begun action to ensure solidarity among politicians and the people in general to face what is described as the most serious crisis since the Full Stop Law went into effect, accelerating trials for excesses committed during the antisubversive struggle.

President Alfonsin has called an urgent meeting of the national cabinet, which will take place this morning. Alfonsin met for a long time in the predawn hours with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena to discuss the situation, which is considered delicate and not "critical," an official source reported.

The source confirmed that most of the Army remains obedient to its commanders, and that the problem is restricted to the Cordoba Garrison, where Barreiro declared himself in rebellion and was discharged for that reason.

Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz met during the morning with his ministers and legislators at Government House. Meantime, at the federal capital, a prolonged meeting was held during the predawn hours, with the participation of Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Labor Minister Carlos Alderete, Presidential Secretary General Carlos Becerra, Deputy Cesar Jaroslavsky, Deputy Marcelo Stubrin, and UCR [Radical Civic Union] leader Enrique Nosiglia, among others. Before noon yesterday, wearing a combat uniform, Barreiro, who is being prosecuted in connection with the La Perla case, reported to the headquarters of the 14th Infantry Battallion and informed its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Polo, that he was not going to appear before the federal court. Barreiro's attitude sent repercussions through the ranks of the Army.

Last night, a high-ranking source at the Defense Ministry revealed that the government "will unquestionably enforce" the law. It can be inferred from this that the decision has been made to arrest the officer, and that the operation will be carried out by Army personnel. The Defense Ministry in Buenos Aires issued a communique at 2330 stating that the decision had been made to strip Barreiro of his military status, thus reaffirming "the decision by the executive branch to enforce the authority of the powers established by the national Constitution."

It was learned that Barreiro's attitude has elicited expressions of solidarity, which were not specified, in other military units. The Defense Ministry communique reads as follows:

Today, the Cordoba District Federal Court, in view of Major Ernesto Guillermo Barreiro's disregard for a summons to appear in court for questioning, charged him with contempt of court and issued a warrant for his arrest.

Therefore, in compliance with the Military Code of Justice, the Defense Ministry has decided to discharge this officer from the Army. The decision by the executive branch to enforce the authority of the powers established by the national Constitution is thus being reaffirmed.

The Cordoba Appellate Court issued that order at about 1900 after Barreiro reported to the headquarters of the 14th Infantry Regiment and refused to appear in the civilian court, which had summoned him to report to court at 1600. The court resolution declaring Barreiro in contempt of court and ordering his arrest was immediately transmitted to the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry. This resolution is signed by Chief Justice Jose Gamond, and Justices Jose Maria Aliaga, Ricardo Haro, Miguel Angel Bustos Vocos, Pedro Feyt, and Raul Sanchez Freytes.

A high-ranking court official told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that Barreiro displayed "a professional attitude, in line with his own principles, and repeatedly stated that he recognizes only the judges of the Armed Forces Supreme Council." The source added that by mid-afternoon, the rebel ignored an emphatic call to report to the federal court issued by Colonel Jose Luis Sanchez, head of the 3d Army Intelligence department, and police commissioner Jose Bresco, head of the local federal police station. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, the Cordoba Federal Court yesterday ordered the strict preventive arrest of retired Army noncommissioned officer Luis Manzanelli, on charges of direct involvement in 10 cases of illegal arrest, 8 cases of torture, 1 case of torture followed by death, and the seizure of 2 minors, court sources have reported.

The difficult situation caused by Barreiro's attitude last night could be repeated on 18 May, when active-duty Captains Gustavo Adolfo Alsina and Enrique Mones Ruiz are scheduled to appear before the civil tribunal. The inquest involving the two officers was originally scheduled for about 1 month ago, but it was delayed when the two officers submitted a brief on court jurisdiction. During the tense moments leading up to the decision to delay the date for the two officers to report to the tribunal, Mones Ruiz and Alsina received several expressions of solidarity from their former classmates and other officers, including a mass that was said in Buenos Aires.

The first deadline for Barreiro to report to the court expired yesterday at 1600; the court extended the deadline by 30 minutes. After the second period expired, the justices held a plenary session during which, reliable sources reported, they were in permanent telephone contact with 2d Army Commander General Antonio Fichera.

Meanwhile, efforts at the military unit, where Barreiro had reported, to get the rebel to desist from his attitude proved unsuccessful.

At about 1800, the head of the federal police delegation entered the federal court to talk with the justices. He then went to the 14th Infantry Regiment to try unsuccessfully to persuade Barreiro to heed the order. As soon as Barreiro arrived at the headquarters of the 14th Infantry Regiment, located in the Cordoba Garrison, 9 km from the city on the road to Calera, Barreiro informed Commander Colonel Luis Polo he was not going to appear in court. Colonel Polo reported the news to General Fichera, who in turn reported it to General Hector Rios Erenu, Army joint staff chief. The latter then informed Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena of the situation.

Since then, the developments were closely followed by both the Army Chief, and the defense minister and his aides, with whom the minister remained in session until after 2200.

The scant information that could be gathered in Cordoba military circles establishes that Barreiro's attitude might be supported by some high-ranking troop officers at the Cordoba military garrison. These rumors, if they turn out to be true, would mean the situation has worsened considerably because the officers supporting the rebel would be liable to severe sanctions by the Army Joint Staff.

A military source emphatically told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "nothing that is happening should be considered as an attack on the institutions of the nation." This source finally said: "This is nothing but a legal-institutional problem that must not go beyond the Army's jurisdiction."

Alfonsin 'To Defend' Law

PY161446 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1429 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (DYN) -- Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today reported in a news conference at Government Palace that President Raul Alfonsin "has firmly decided to use all the instruments granted to him by law to defend the state of law, the institutions, his office, and justice." Lopez also announced that political, union, and sectorial leaders will hold a meeting in Congress at 1700 today to express their firm solidarity with the government and democracy under the current circumstances.

Lopez, who talked to the press during a recess of the meeting between Alfonsin and his cabinet, labeled the situation of former Major Ernesto Barreiro as "refusal by a citizen to comply with a court order." He added that because Barreiro has confined himself to barracks at the 14th Airborne Regiment, "his comrades in arms who support him are also in disobedience." However, Lopez said the situation "is normal in the other military units in the country."

State of Siege To Begin

PY162038 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1937 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (NA) -- Radical Deputy Federico Storani has reported that President Alfonsin, forced by the conflictive military situation created in Cordoba, will announce this afternoon the implementation of the "state of siege," to go into effect at midnight.

Storani added that "the government may also use the troops to reestablish the military order," which was upset by the rebellious position of a group of officers of the airborne infantry garrison stationed in Cordoba.

Storani concluded by saying that "constitutionally, the estbalished government can only defend the state of law with the tools which are supplied by the Constitution."

President Addresses Nation

PY170115 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2305 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Address to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin on the military situation in Cordoba from the Chamber of Deputies in Buenos Aires -- live]

[Text] Participants of this true, open assembly of Argentine democracy, representatives of the various political forces, labor leaders, businessmen, representatives of cultural sectors, fellow countrymen:

I am addressing the nation at a difficult time in our national life. This is a time when we are facing risks to the efforts the large majority of Argentine people are making to consolidate and develop a democratic system.

Democracy means freedom, but it also means order. It means not only the guaranteed, unrestricted exercise of all rights to which the human being is entitled but also the full submission, without exceptions, to the legal system guiding our national life.

Since I was inaugurated almost 3 and 1/2 years ago, I have invariably and unwaveringly upheld my decision to observe these two principles guiding democratic order. I will not make concessions in the face of any kind of initiative or pressure [shouts, applause] designed to restrict the exercise of rights and freedoms essential to democracy. Nor will I make concessions in the face of any kind of initiative or pressure designed to limit, to condition, or to negotiate the obligation each citizen has -- whether in uniform or not -- to submit equally to the laws. [shouts, applause: "Alfonsin! Alfonsin!"]

We, Argentines, were surprised when we woke up today and learned that a former Army officer, with the collaboration of other officers, was resisting an arrest warrant which the Cordoba Federal Appellate Court issued when the individual refused to obey a court summons and was found in contempt. This is not just an emotional reaction on the part of an individual but a calculated maneuver by a group of men who seek to do something that would force the government to netotiate its position. [shouts, applause]

In this way, they are trying to force the constitutional government to enact a law that would grant immunity to those who are convicted or tried for having committed human rights violations during the past dictatorship. In no way can we accept this type of extortive attempt. We cannot accept it because of our code of ethics, our democratic conviction, and our constitutional provisions, as well as the disciplinary rules governing the Armed Forces.

History also prevents us from yielding to this type of demand. We Argentines have drawn a clear lesson from our history: To yield to this type of demand would mean to put the future of our nation at stake. [applause] Thus, there is nothing to negotiate here. The democracy of the Argentines is not negotiable. [applause, shouts: "Alfonsin! Alfonsin!"] Gone forever is the time for coups, for pressures, uprisings, or demands. [applause, shouts]

All officers of the Armed Forces have a single obligation: They must obey the orders of their superiors and their commander in chief. [applause, shouts] To this end, they have assumed the dignified commitment of carrying the arms which the nation entrusted to them to ensure its defense.

There is nothing to negotiate, especially in the face of independent, legitimate decisions handed down by the courts. No citizen can negotiate with the judiciary, or with any other branch of government, if he is standing trial. This would be out of place in any democracy. Those who may attempt to do this are overstepping their legitimate duties; they are engaging in dereliction of their duties; they are relinquishing their mission, and are challenging the Argentine society, which is determined not to yield an inch in its decision to strengthen its democracy. [applause]

No government institution, no political party, no social organization will sponsor the negotiation of what is nonnegotiable. Neither can justice be a subject for negotiation. This mobilization by all representative sectors of our society is showing today the extent of our collective decision to consolidate democracy, and how isolated are those who have chosen to ignore this fact. I am hereby urging them to forfeit their position to avoid greater dangers for the military institutions and for the Republic. Neither the branches of the constitutional government nor the Argentine society is willing to yield. Nothing, no one could change this decision. Democracy is here to stay. We will not hesitate to use any of the powers granted to us by the Constitution and the laws. [applause]

We have the mandate of the Argentine people, a mandate that we cannot give up. We will neither betray nor negotiate that mandate. This is not the time to hesitate. Those who challenge the Constitution and the laws of the Republic are alone and lack support. Good sense must prevail. Let the words and the example of the liberator [General Jose de San Martin] enlighten them so that they are able to overcome their confusion with the clean honor of the soldiers that fulfill their duties.

We do not want to carry out reprisals, but, yes, however, we are going to exercise our mandate, and we will apply the law and the military rules and regulations. [shouts, applause] This is the time of crucial challenges, and we must overcome backwardness and disagreement and build the country's future.

We are sorry about the fact that there are citizens who exclude themselves from the collective project of building a more just and democratic country. It is up to them now. There is still time to abandon an attitude that only leads them to personal failure and hurts the institutions in which they trained to become an example of service and not of excesses and arrogance. [shouts, applause] The astonished Argentine people are watching them and waiting. They do not understand to what extent the Argentine people are fed up with disorder and authoritarianism. Only by strictly abiding by law, will they find understanding and tolerance, an understanding and tolerance that is now uniting all Argentines, regardless of political banners or social interests, with an unprecedented force. There is still time to keep their mistake from turning into a crime without extenuating circumstances.

Argentines, together we have already come a long way. We have shared too much joy and too much grief to take a step backward now when dealing with those who are threatening liberty, justice, national development, and our well-being. We have invested too much in securing our democracy to let those who seek to prevent our drive win. I want to tell you that I have never in my political life seen so many opportunities for change and transformation as the ones I see today.

I feel, and I am certain that many people feel the same way, that we are experiencing a fruitful time. We will not permit them to wrest from us this time of creation and liberty. We will not permit them to wrest from us this opportunity to dream of a better country and the beginning of making this dream come true. [applause]

As other people, who preceded us in the early days of independence, in the years of national organization, we are also now called to build the country and overcome frustration by opening the doors to a new Argentina. Democracy has given back to the Argentine people the possibility to participate, that is, the possibility of choosing a future. This is the great challenge for the current generation of Argentine people. It has been almost four years since we started to make a choice. We chose liberty, justice, national development.

Do not let them now try to repeat history. Today, Argentina is a country that is respected throughout the world, a respect that we gained by championing human rights and national independence. Let us then defend what we have gained. As we recently told bankers: growth cannot be negotiated. Now, let us tell those who internally again want to drag us away from civilization, peace, and justice, that we do not want to become the pariahs of the world. [shouts, applause]

To close, I wish to outline to the Argentine people the two basic principles that will guide our immediate action.

In the first place every individual advocating democracy must assume today his share of responsibility courageously and in solidarity to build the real Argentina we all want. To this end, we will immediately implement some mechanisms that will be instrumental in translating this common desire into specific actions.

Secondly, we will reaffirm through actions our ideas concerning responsibility to promote the definitive reconciliation of the Argentine people.

Today, as in the past and as it should always have been, we Argentines are once and for all determined to build national unity, to strengthen justice, to consolidate internal peace, to provide for our common defense, to promote the general well-being, and to ensure the benefits of freedom for us, for our children, and for all those foreigners who may choose to reside in our country. [applause] May God be with us. Thank you.

'Repression' Idea Not Rejected

PY170210 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0143 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Democratic Center Union Deputy Alvaro Alsogaray, who participated with the representatives of other political parties in the meeting held tonight at Government House, stated President Raul Alfonsin has asked all the corps commanders to participate in a meeting with him on 17 April at 1000.

After meeting with Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli, Alsogaray stated that the possibility "of using repression" to overcome the rebel officers has not been rejected.

Rios Erenu Departs for Cordoba

PY161732 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1658 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos, Aires, 16 Apr (NA) -- A government source has revealed that General Hector Rios Erenu departed for Cordoba at noon. Rios Erenu will immediately meet with III Army Corps Commander General Antonio Fichera once he arrives in Cordoba.

The Army Joint Chief of Staff will try to accelerate the operation to arrest former Army Major Ernesto Barreiro, who remains secluded at the 14th Airborne Infantry Regiment in Cordoba.

Sanchez on 'Special Mission'

PY161906 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1856 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (NA) -- General Jaime Sanchez, Army deputy chief of staff, traveled to Cordoba half an hour ago on a special mission entrusted to him by the Army Chief of Staff.

Gen Sanchez will meet with III Army Corps Commander General Antonio Fichera immediately upon his arrival in Cordoba.

Army Units Support Chief

PY161310 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1222 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (DYN) -- According to the radiograms sent to Buenos Aires by the military radio network, all the Army units are unconditionally supporting Army Chief of Staff General Hector Luis Rios Erenu. According to what has been verified so far in the Army corps (divisions), brigades, and regiments, the situation was normal and all the chiefs are in permanent contact with the Army chief of staff.

Military officers in confidential conversations with reporters in Cordoba said support was being given to Maj Ernesto Barreiro, retired, who was discharged for contempt of court. These reports were given no credit by the Army. [passage omitted]

A radiogram sent via the military radio network on the express instructions of Defense Minister Horacio Januarena instructed unit chiefs to act with maximum severity to preserve institutional order and drastically put down any breach of discipline.

Last night the editors of several newspapers received reports from officers who support Barreiro indicating that Barreiro has support in several units around the country. However, the military high command confirmed the situation is under control and breaches of discipline will not be tolerated.

Captain Rejects Chief's Command

PY161635 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1615 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Cordoba, 16 Apr (NA) -- A captain, who is a member of the 14th Airborne Infantry Regiment where former Major Barreiro is secluded, asserted that "the III Corps does not recognize the authority of the Army chief of staff," General Hector Rios Erenu. The captain, who was wearing fatigues and refused to identify himself, said Rios Erenu "is not the one who should lead" the Army.

The captain, who talked with reporters at the main entrance to the unit, said that "there are many garrisons which are taking the same attitude" as the 14th Regiment, which is generally supporting Barreiro. He also said that all the garrisons of the III Corps do not recognize the order of the Army General Staff that the officers must appear before a court to testify in cases linked to excesses committed in the antisubversive struggle, but he explained they do not question the authority of the political power.

The comment about similar positions of other garrisons raises the question of what will be the attitude of Captains Enrique Yanes Ruiz and Gustavo Adolfo Alsina who have been summoned to appear before the federal court on 21 April. He said that "no one questions the power of the political authorities" and that the military men who expressed solidarity with former Major Ernesto Barreiro [words indistinct] defend the Army, which is being underhandedly attacked."

The captain this morning (?came out) of the barracks through the main gate and engaged in a short talk with a group of reporters. The captain said "we are soldiers who obeyed orders at a time when the nation supported us; the situation into which we have been led is now unsustainable." He added that "this is why we have ignored the Army staff order to report to the civilian courts and this is why we support those who refuse to report to the courts." The officer maintained that "the military has its own procedures, just as journalists or, for that matter, any other professional group, has its procedures. The courts are now learning our procedures."

He added that "Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu wanted to sell us out; we do not recognize his authority, because he is not qualified to command the Army."

The captain maintained that "the III Corps does not recognize the authority of the Army chief of staff," adding that "several garrisons" of the southern, northern, and western regions "share this position."

The officer, who met with the journalists next to the road to La Calera, in front of the barracks, asked photographers not to take pictures of him. After the discussion with the reporters, which lasted approximately 10 minutes, he returned to the barracks without any type of harassment.

Corps Personnel Reject Courts

PY162304 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2245 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Cordoba, 16 Apr (NA) -- The leadership of III Army Corps, with General Antonio Fichera in attendance, tonight told a journalist that "as of now every military man (within the jurisdiction) who is called to testify before civilian courts is going to adopt the same attitude" as that of former Maj Ernesto Barreiro.

The statement was made to journalist Gabriel Mamertino of LV3 Radio Cordoba at the headquarters of III Corps, which at the same time released an official communique in which it warned that "all possibilities for the peaceful solution to the problem are becoming exhausted."

Mamertino said the spokesman, who was not Fichera, of the military leadership stressed that "Barreiro is armed" and that the commander of the Airborne Infantry Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Luis Polo, "supports Barreiro."

The spokesman also stated that "the only order that the corps' personnel refuse to obey is that of using weapons against Barreiro." [passage omitted]

Corps Communique on Conflict

PY162253 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2214 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Cordoba, 16 Apr (NA) -- The Command of the Army's III Corps has just released the following communique:

"The difficult situation created at the 14th Airborne Infantry Regiment is an affair which strictly concerns the Army, which fully respects institutional order.

"The members of the III Corps are obeying the chain of command, except in the case of military repression of other units, in order not to split the Army's unity.

"We are resorting to all possible solutions to peacefully solve this situation. The units are performing their normal chores, without obstructing the movement of people and vehicles in the vicinity."

Airborne Regiment in Rebellion

PY161802 Paris AFP in Spanish 1729 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (AFP) -- The regiment where the rebel former Major Ernesto Barreiro is secluded is in a virtual state of insubordination and is not obeying the chain of command, according to information obtained at noon today at Government House, thus aggravating the crisis that begin last night in Cordoba Province, 700 km northeast of Buenos Aires.

According to radio reports, three mortar, and several light machinegun positions have been set up at the entrance of the 14th Airborne Infantry Regiment, and soldiers have been posted on both sides of the road leading to it. Traffic has not been interrupted. [passage omitted]

In a subsequent statement, presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez confirmed the rebellion at the 14th Airborne Infantry Regiment by saying: I suppose if Barreiro is staying in that military unit, it is because his colleagues are going along with him in his attitude of disobedience. According to unofficial reports that have been circulating since noon today at Government Palace, the chain of command has been broken and the 14th Regiment is in a virtual state of insubordination.

A few hours earlier, reports indicated that according to Army radiograms, all the military units were unconditionally supporting Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu. However, a radio station in Cordoba reported that III Corps Commander General Antonio Fichera was not able to secure the arrest of Barreiro because none of the officers was willing to carry out the order to arrest their comrade in arms. Also some military leaders who were contacted by the press agency DYN indicated that although they respected the natural chain of command and the institutional order, they could not guarantee their emotional state of mind if they were called upon to repress Barreiro and his supporters. In a radio interview from Cordoba, two captains who only identified themselves as spokesmen of the III Corps, insisted that General Rios Erenu must go, but at the same time they expressed support for President Raul Alfonsin.

The president also interrupted early this morning a brief vacation at his country house in Chascomus (100 km south of Buenos Aires) to travel by helicopter to Government Palace to preside at a Cabinet meeting, which was also attended by General Rios Erenu. After the meeting presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez said that Alfonsin was evaluating the situation with his cabinet. The spokesman said the president, as might be expected, has firmly decided to use all the instruments granted to him by the law to defend the state of law, the institutions, his office and the courts, whose authority is being questioned by this incident. Lopez indicated that Alfonsin said the situation was the result of a dictatorial attitude on the part of some groups who want to create disturbances in the country.

Meanwhile, opposition and official political and labor leaders, businessmen, and leaders of human rights organizations began parading in front of Government Palace to personally express to President Alfonsin their support for the democratic institutions. All these leaders have called for a demonstration of support for the constitutional regime in front of the national Congress this afternoon.

Regiment Officers Offer Demands

PY162125 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2106 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Cordoba, 16 Apr (NA) -- The document, attributed to the officers of the 14th regiment of the III Army Corps who have confined themselves to barracks, demands the reinstatement of former Major Ernesto Barreiro, the release of the former commanders sentenced by the court, and the resignation of Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu. The petition made by the rebel officers was supposedly made public by two Army officers in a bar in this city. The document contains eight points, among them a demand for salary increases.

PERPETRATOR OF U.S. EMBASSY ATTACK NOT IDENTIFIED

PY161535 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Under Secretary of the Interior Ruben Moreno has reported that the person who threw a bomb at the door of the U.S. Embassy, which injured nine people, was among a group of university students passing by the embassy.

Moreno, who based his report on reliable sources, added that it is difficult to determine whether it was a university student who threw the bomb. He said the man was among a group of students when he threw a package. The package was smoking and exploded when an embassy guard kicked it.

'BOL-USA-3' JOINT MANEUVERS TO BEGIN IN MAY

PY132007 Paris AFP in Spanish 1437 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 13 Apr (AFP) -- It was officially reported here today that Bolivian and U.S. fighter planes, with joint crews, will participate in the tactical maneuvers "Bol-USA-3" scheduled for next May, in Rurrenabaque, 600 km northeast of La Paz.

Defense Ministry sources told AFP that military authorities from the two countries have been meeting in this capital since last Thursday to prepare for joint maneuvers. Some 300 U.S. Marines from the Southern Command, headquartered in Panama, and 1,000 Bolivian troops will participate in the exercises.

The operations will be based in Santa Cruz (1,000 km east of La Paz), because the El Alto airport of La Paz, located 4,000 meters above sea level, would be more difficult for the U.S. planes to land and take off.

The tactical maneuvers will be carried out in the jungle zones bordering with Peru, where future incursions of the Shining Path guerrilla movement are feared, and also in the regions presumably used for cocaine production and marketing.

BARTER TRADE TO FINANCE DEALS SOUGHT WITH EUROPE

PY141818 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Alfredo Olmedo, Foreign Ministry under secretary for Economic and Financial Affairs, has started negotiating with somne European Governments, seeking to finance development projects throughout Bolivia. A barter system will be used to pay off the credits by exporting nontraditional products which will be produced by the regions benefiting from the projects. The finance which is being sought "must not affect the balance of payments which is committed in advance to the servicing of a foreign debt that was contracted and mismanaged by former administrations," Olmedo explained yesterday.

Olmedo said that we realize it is adequate "to use the barter system," which is now used in several Latin American countries and involves a substantial portion of their trade.

Olmedo added that, through the barter system, Bolivia would be in a position to purchase machinery and equipment from the industrialized countries (capitalist or socialist), "paying for them with nontraditional products, which will be produced by the project area itself. This will contribute to diversify the Bolivian exports."

There is technical and administrative experience to administrate the barter system and so the government has decided to contract, with the financial support of the UNDP, the services of Dr Michel Alabay, the coordinator general of the Center for Foreign Trade Studies of SAEFI [expansion unknown], who will support the industrial and commercial sectors.

The government wants to secure financing for projects such as the Bala, the ICLA [expansion unknown], the Sachapera, the Villamontes, and the Misicuni projects, together with other projects that are important for national development. Many of these projects have been proposed by international organizations but were not accepted because of the large investments involved.

DEPUTY USES TAPE, ACCUSES VALLE OF COUP PROPOSAL

PY101440 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0206 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz, 9 Apr (EFE) -- During an address to Congress on 1 April, former Defense Minister Fernando Valle proposed a coup d'etat. Without his knowledge, his proposal was tape recorded.

This proof was presented today by Deputy Fernando Kieffer of the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] Party, which is allied with the government. Kieffer rejected a newspaper report accusing the ADN of trying to destabilize and subvert the country. He said the destabilization and subversion had sprung from the government itself, and he played the recording for congressmen and journalists.

The recording was made an occasion when Valle was supposed to defend the Armed Forces' request for authorization to carry out joint military exercises with U.S. troops. However, the recording allowed the congressmen to hear clearly Valle's subversive proposal.

According to witnesses, on that occasion Valle arrived drunk at the Chamber of Deputies, and made harsh remarks against leftist sectors. Apparently he even raised his voice offensively. The congressmen censured his behavior but before they could approve a motion demanding his resignation, Valle resigned irrevocably from President Paz' cabinet.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT THANKS PAZ FOR RECOGNITION

PY151408 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to President Victor Paz Estenssoro thanking him for Bolivia's strong support and solidarity with the Palestinian people by having formalized bilateral relations with the PLO. The message says that the president's courageous decision, which was based on principle, will have a profound impact on the Palestinian people and will contribute to strengthening the links of friendship and cooperation between Bolivia and the PLO.

The PLO Political Department also released a statement indicating its profound gratitude and appreciation for the Bolivian Government's solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people.

SARNEY WANTS TO GIVE FUNARO 'LAST CHANCE'

PY170417 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Apr 87 p A7

[By Josias de Souza]

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney, 56, has told Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia, Rio de Janeiro Governor Wellington Moreira Franco, and deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Constituent Assembly and of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party, that he wants to give Finance Minister Dilson Funaro a last chance before deciding that his dismissal is quite inevitable. Yesterday, FOLHA learned Funaro will have a few weeks on the fourth floor of the Planalto Palace to draw up an emergency program. Funaro has already agreed with President Sarney on the general guidelines of the program that will be submitted in an informal manner, for consideration to politicians, governors, and businessmen. Should the criticism of the finance minister persist, the need for his dismissal will be obvious. [passage omitted]

BANK OFFICIAL FAVORS SEPARATE DEBT TALKS

PY161202 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Apr 87 p A40

[Text] Brasilia -- Ending the unity of creditors to promote separate negotiations with the various groups of banks is "one of the most creative solutions," Brazilian Central Bank President Francisco Gros said in a news conference yesterday. In his opinion, the single debt negotiation with 700 creditor banks through the steering committee chaired by Citibank Vice President William Rhodes, "is not an intelligent way to solve complex situations posing different problems to a German and to an American banker."

Although claiming he is not attempting to weaken the steering committee, Gros said it would be "very healthy" to form other committees which, for instance, could address specific problems affecting small creditor banks or banks subjected to diverse laws or interests. In his opinion, "to defend all creditors' interests from a single position is like wearing a straitjacket that forces the steering to wear the same jacket," Gros said.

Despite saying that he cannot estimate when an agreement will be reached, Gros said progress continues to be made in the talks with the creditor banks "slowly, but positively." He added that "the world has not collapsed despite threats of total destruction, and said that there is now growing acceptance of Brazil's position that it only seeks to ensure its economic growth. It does not seek to impose on its creditors a pardon of its debt or unprofitable interest rates."

Gros believes creditor banks will accept the Brazilian request for an "open" extension of the principal of its $9.6 billion debt that became due in 1986 until a new agreement is reached on the final rescheduling. Gros said: "There has been no move from our creditors that would cause us any major concer."

POLICE CHIEF WANTS TO CLOSE BORDERS TO DRUGS

PY131515 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1541 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 11 Apr (EFE) -- Romeu Tuma, the director general of the Brazilian Federal police, today reported Brazil will close its borders with Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru to prevent the entry of drug traffickers who are financing terrorist actions.

Tuma, one of the most prominent Latin American personalities in the struggle against crime, has said that in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia the threat of terrorism aimed at destabilizing institutions has increased. This type of terrorism is being supported financially by the drug traffickers.

Tuma said the economic power at the disposal of drug traffickers throughout the world -- some $400,000 [figure as received] yearly -- is enough to finance destabilizing groups.

The threat of "narcoterrorism" in Latin America was one of the problems studied by the directors of antinarcotics agencies of 25 European and Latin American countries, and the United States at a forum in Sao Paulo in late March. This issue was described during the forum as "dangerous" for the strengthening of the institutions. [passage omitted]

SOCIALIST LAGOS CRITICIZES MATTHEI STAND

PY102221 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 16000 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] [Begin Chilean Air Force (FACH) Commander in Chief General Fernando Matthei recording -- in progress] I think this is the time for all Chileans, militarymen and civilians alike, to do as the pope has asked: Take a good look at our own conscience. Let us not forget the past because the past should not be forgotten; let us turn over a new leaf, and let us confidently look to the future so that we can shake hands with those who may not completely agree with our ideas, but who are willing to live in peace with us and build a new democracy for our country. It is essential to do this. Otherwise, Chile will have no future. [end recording]

This is what Gen Matthei said yesterday.

Answering Matthei's statement, Socialist Party leader Ricardo Lagos has said the country should welcome Gen Matthei's contention that this is the time for Chileans to shake hands and that, from now on, he will not say a single thing to divide his fellow countrymen, only things that can unite us.

[Begin Lagos recording] However, this positive approach should be considered from the viewpoint that Gen Matthei only wants to shake hands with a certain sector. I believe this is deplorable because, in his opinion, we should shake hands after the creation of the political parties; Gen Matthei must be aware that only some Chileans can form a political party. There is a major group of Chileans who also met with the holy father, but who cannot create a party. Does this mean those Chileans should banned from the dialogue? Should they be excluded? He must also be aware that this system of regulations under which Chileans are supposed to engage in a dialogue -- either we agree to the regulations or we do not participate -- means in the final analysis to agree to the 1989 deadline and to the Constitution as it is. It means to accept the fact that even if the opposition wins the plebiscite, defeating the candidate proposed by the government, General Augusto Pinochet will remain in office for an additional year. Then, after he appoints the new commanders in chief of the three branches, he can remain in power for an indefinite period of time. He will also designate many of the senators. [end recording]

He will designate the members of the national security council. This is an institutional system that cannot lead to democracy. I hope we will shake hands and agree on how we will build a democracy. We should, therefore, engage in a dialogue in which we sincerely put forward our positions, without preconditions, Lagos added.

[Begin Lagos recording] Consequently, even though I agree with what Gen Matthei has advocated, I am afraid there is a great difference between what he said and what he actually meant. I would say: Let us be generous and open-minded and let us all engage in a dialogue to restore democracy. Let us not establish preconditions. If knowing who is who is a precondition to engage in a dialogue -- because Gen Matthei has said that many individuals have improperly claimed to be the representatives of the people, and I agree with him -- who can claim to represent our people after 13 years without elections? That is why I would prefer a more humble attitude and a dialogue in which all of us participate. [end recording]

In response to a question from Radio Chilena, Lagos said that to try to get an audience with Gen Matthei is not really the problem; the actual problem is whether it will be possible to engage in open dialogue.

PDC WILLING TO HOLD TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT

PY131419 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0617 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Santiago, 10 Apr (EFE) -- The Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the main opposition party under the Chilean military regime, is willing to hold talks with the military regime to achieve "the reconciliation that the country needs" by calling free elections.

This comment was made today by Gabriel Valdes, the PRC president and a former foreign minister, in response to statements by two of the four members of the government junta in favor of holding talks with the parties, as a result of the call for reconciliation by the pope during his recent visit to Chile. [passage omitted]

Referring to comments by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino and General Fernando Matthei, the PDC president stated his party has sincerely accepted the call for reconciliation made by the pontiff in Chile.

Valdes added: "We are willing to take all the necessary steps to achieve the reconciliation the country needs through holding of talks."

FORMER OPPOSITION WEEKLY BEGINS DAILY PUBLICATION

PY152004 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1442 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Santiago, 14 Apr (TELAM-ANSA) -- FORTIN MAPOCHO is the second daily to be published by the opposition. Edited in [words indistinct], FORTIN MAPOCHO appeared today in Chile in an effort to broaden the freedom of expression in the country.

Former Christian Democratic Party Senator Jorge Lavandero defined the paper as pluralist, popular and informative. FORTIN MAPOCHO appears after LA EPOCA, which was authorized by the government on 17 March.

FORTIN MAPOCHO had been a weekly until last week. It appeared today as a daily after defeating the present laws which forbid the publication of any news media without the military government's approval.

We overcame all the difficulties interposed by the government, by appealing to the Supreme Court twice. We have achieved our rights in the court, in the street, among Chileans. We have defeated those who want to control the news, the former senator emphasized.

UP FEARS 'PERSECUTION' AFTER BARCO STATEMENTS

PA170148 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Patriotic Union [UP] asked President Virgilio Barco Vargas to retract a statement attributed to him that the UP is the political party of the Colombian guerrillas.

The demand is contained in a message sent yesterday morning by the UP National Coordinating Board. It believes that the alleged presidential statement is not only wrong but highly dangerous as well.

According to UP, if President Barco's statement is not retracted the persecution that already plagues UP will be intensified. That persecution has already claimed the lives of 300 of its members.

According to an interview in the British SOUTH Magazine, published by EL SIGLO on 5 April, President Barco said that the UP is the political arm or political party of the guerrillas.

The UP message to the president states: "Your interview contains disturbing statements attributed to you on an alleged link between our party and the guerrillas. Such statements, which contradict your previous statements and those of your collaborators, force us to demand a retraction because such political mistakes encourages our enemies to step up crimes against the UP."

Carlos Efren Agudelo, vice president of the UP National Coordinating Board, said that the message was sent in view of the president's silence in this regard although the UP voiced a protest as soon as it learned about the content of the interview.

In rejecting the alleged links with the guerrillas, he said that there are indeed political coincidences with the FARC such as the advocacy of a continuation of the peace process and social reforms, but "those coincidences do not make us the party of the guerrillas."

That would be like stating that the Liberal Party is the party of the FARC, because it agrees with the reforms that led to the Uribe Accord; we all know that is not true, Agudelo added.

He insisted that the UP is a political party separate from the guerrillas, recognized by law as an autonomous and democratic organization.

Carlos Efren Agudelo finally said: "If you had listened to the CARACOL Network yesterday, you would have confirmed that Carlos Ossa Escobar himself, the presidential adviser for rehabilitation, reaffirmed that the UP is a legal party which is not committed to the FARC. That is why the UP demands that the president retract the statements appearing in the magazine."

FARC COMMANDER REPORTEDLY KILLED IN CLASH

PA160100 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2316 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Bucaramanga (Colombia), 15 Apr (EFE) -- It was revealed today that Commander Senen Dario Rangel Osorio -- known as "Omar" -- head of the 24th FARC front, died in a clash with the Army.

Official sources said that "Commander Omar" was killed in combat with a patrol of the Nueva Granada Battalion, of the Army 5th Brigade, in a rural zone of Norosi, Morales municipality, in the northeast. The death of the guerrilla leader occurred Monday, but it was not officially confirmed by local military authorities until today.

Rangel Osorio, 35, had been in command of the 24th front -- the FARC has 27 fronts -- for several years, and his operations took place in a vast jungle zone in the southern part of Bolivar Department and the northwestern portion of Santander Department, in the northern part of the country.

The sources did not give details about the battle between the official troops and the guerrilla front, and they did not mention any other casualties on either side.

'POLITICIANS' KILLED IN SANTANDER DEPARTMENT

PA142002 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Eight politicians of various sectors have been assassinated in the last few hours in Santander Department. Three members of the Patriotic Union and two FARC guerrillas were killed in San Vicente de Chucuri. Two Conservatives were assassinated in El Carmen while one Liberal was assassinated in (Puerto Parra).

MEDELLIN BUILDING EVACUATED DUE TO BOMB THREAT

PA151733 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] A false bomb threat and guerilla takeover forced police authorities in Medellin to evacuate more than 1,500 people from the Coltejer Building, located in the downtown area of this city.

A phone call was received at the Metropolitan Police Station. A large operation was immediately mounted, which ended shortly before noon. It was concluded that it was a false alarm.

The evacuation was carried out without problems. Policemen searched and inspected each of the Coltejer Building's floors.

Authorities said that they will remain alert to any irregular or abnormal situation, adding that they are experiencing telephone terrorism. They also declared themselves [words indistinct] due to the various calls and reports circulating on alleged actions by armed groups.

In the specific case of the Coltejer Building, it was reported that the building was evacuated and inspected, after which it was determined that there was nothing to worry about. No one was injured or affected. However, activities in the building were disrupted this morning.

The Metropolitan Police has ordered redoubling protection at the Coltejer Building and surrounding areas.

GUERRILLAS RAID NORTHERN ANTIOQUIA TOWN

PA151920 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1712 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The other important news in Antioquia today is the guerrilla takeover in Ituango municipality, in northern Antioquia. A policeman was killed and another was wounded. Six prisoners were released by the group of approximately 150 guerrillas, who stole 5 million pesos from a Coffee Bank office. Official weapons were also stolen.

The official report released by Julio Cesar Echeverri Ceballos, under secretary of government in Antioquia, on the incursion that occurred in Ituango at approximately 0130, follows:

[Begin Echeverri recording] We spoke with the mayor several minutes ago. He told us that the guerrillas entered the town hall [cabecera] at 0100. Upon entering they encountered a police officer who had just ended his duty and was on his way home. He was killed. His name was William Calderon. They took his uniform and rifle. They then entered the Coffee Bank, where they stole 5 million pesos and two revolvers. They also took two revolvers from the municipal jail, which they set on fire, and took six prisoners. They also took four sets of handcuffs and all the ammunition. At 0630 they withdrew from the town. [end recording]

Part of the building housing the police command, where approximately 15 policemen resisted the attack by the approximately 150 guerrillas, was damaged by rifle and rocket fire. So far, reports have not named the group to which this commando belongs. They fled toward the area of the Teques municipality, in northwestern Antioquia.

BRIEFS

UNION AWARDED LEGAL STATUS -- The United Workers Confederation [Central Unitaria de Trabajadores -- CUT] yesterday received its legal status documents from President Virgilio Barco. Its president, Jorge Carrillo Rojas, said that it is planning new workers mobilizations to pressure the government to carry out labor law reform. [Summary] [Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 87 PA]

SCATTERED TERRORIST INCIDENTS CONTINUE

Occupy Town, Burn Town Hall

PY131557 Paris AFP in Spanish 2323 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources have reported that some 40 heavily armed terrorists today occupied the town of Tocache, 700 km northeast of Lima, and, after expelling the mayor and the prefect, set fire to the municipality building.

The attack against Tocache, located on the banks of the Huallaga River and one of the main drug-trafficking centers in the Peruvian Amazon jungle, occurred in the early morning hours of 11 April.

Initial reports from Tocache state that the assailants, who were wielding different firearms, went to the house of Tocache Mayor Santos Gonzalez and the house of Tocache Province Deputy Prefect Oliverio Guzman and ordered them to leave Tocache in 30 minutes. Afterward, the terrorists accompanied them to the airport and forced them to board a small airplane.

Later, the terrorists gathered the people at the main square and delivered speeches against the government, advocating armed struggle. In conclusion, before fleeing to the forest, the terrorists hoisted red Shining Path flags and set fire to the municipality building. Later, the police, whose headquarters is far from Tocache, began pursuing the assailants. The police described the assailants as narcoterrorists.

Ayacucho, Huanta Blacked Out

PY152152 Paris AFP in Spanish 1656 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources confirmed here today that commandos of the Maoist Shining Path have left the city of Ayacucho in darkness, seized a police arsenal in Apurimac, and wounded an agent and two other persons in Lima. The cities of Ayacucho and Huanta, southeastern Andean region, have been in total darkness since early yesterday when a presumed Shining Path column destroyed two power pylons on the central Mantaro-Ayacucho hydroelectric line by using an electric saw instead of explosives.

The blackout occurred when the two cities were filled with tourists who had arrived for the famous Holy Week celebrations and has left the zone without electricity. The state enterprise Electro Centro reported today that it has been forced to ration electricity by 60 percent.

The attack caused considerable damage, but no casualties. The forces of order were mobilized immediately. Ayacucho, stronghold of the Andean guerrillas, was shocked on Saturday, 11 April, when another terrorist group set a fire and destroyed the Magdalena Church after a procession.

The fire, which the political-military command of that emergency zone, attributed to the Shining Path, completely destroyed the church that was built in 1558, valuable art pieces, paintings, and statues. Moreover, Shining Path commandos seized an arsenal -- 15 G-8 machineguns, 18 revolvers, 10 grenades, and ammunition -- from a Republican Guard station in Andahuaylas, Apurimac, 750 km southeast of Lima.

Some 20 subversives managed to enter the station by pretending to be cattle grazers who wanted to pay their respects to the police. After overwhelming and tying up the 10 policemen, they fled, taking the weapons. This event, which took place 3 days ago, was only disclosed today when a police commission left for that zone, the source reported.

A police lieutenant, Juan Santitesban, and a minor, Roberto Villacorta were seriously injured last night during a confrontation between the forces of order and four armed subversives near a wholesale marketplace in the Lima district of La Victoria. The subversives were caught by surprise and when the police tried to stop them, a shootout began. There were no reports on casualties among the subversives.

Meantime, another seditious group shot at Jose Paredes, an official of the (parastate) Rice Marketing Enterprise Inc., wounding him in the head. The attack occurred near his house in the neighboring port of Callao.

Shootout in Lima

PY1512343 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0305 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 14 Apr (EFE) -- The PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] reported here today that a police officer and a 12-year-old child were wounded during a shootout between police and presumed terrorists in La Victoria district of Lima.

Three persons started shooting at PIP Lieutenant Juan Santibanez and two other police officers when the latter approached them to check their identity cards. A PIP spokesman said that a bullet also wounded a child who was passing by. The attackers, who managed to escape, left behind a small suitcase containing 16 homemade bombs and a red flag bearing the insignia of the hammer and the sickle. According to sources at the hospital where the officer and the child were taken, both are out of danger.

ECONOMY MINISTER TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH IDB

PY131541 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Luis Alva Castro last night departed for Washington to receive a $70-million credit from the IDB and the Swedish banks to finance the Carhaquero hydroelectric project. This is one of the most important projects that the government has decided to build. The plant will supply electric energy needed for urban and industrial development of the northern region of Peru. The hydroelectric plant will have a capacity of 75 megavolts.

Once in Washington Alva Castro, as president of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council of the OAS, will meet with Latin American economy ministers to discuss the foreign debt of the region. All members have agreed to hold a summit of OAS economy ministers.

BRIEFS

NEW INTERNATIONAL LOANS -- Lima, 7 Apr (AFP) -- Finance Minister Luis Alva Castro confirmed today that in the next few days Peru will receive a $230 million loan from the Andean Reserve Fund to assist the Peruvian balance of payments and a $73 million credit from the IDB to finance the Carhuaquero hydroelectric project. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0040 GMT 8 Apr 87 PY]

MALARIA OUTBREAK IN AYACUCHO -- Ayacucho, 26 Mar -- In addition to the fatal yellow fever epidemic which has killed more than 50 people in the jungle town of San Francisco, the health authorities are now trying to control the malaria outbreak in the region. More than 250 peasants have been affected by the disease. Dr Rodrigo Quispe Perez, head of the Departmental Health Unit, has stated that more than 2,500 malaria cases were reported in 1986. He added that this year the number will increase because some 250 cases are being registered each month. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 28 Mar 87 p 25 PY]

DE LA MADRID SEES DIFFERENCES WITH U.S. ON REGION

PA151553 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] After admitting that Mexico and the United States have had substantial differences on the Central American crisis, President Miguel de la Madrid warned that the use of violence can make the regional conflict worse and create a hostile climate between the United States and Latin America.

The president reiterated the Mexican stand of finding a resolution to the Central American conflict and described any hegemonic participation in the problem -- whether by the United States or the Soviet Union -- as negative. De la Madrid made these statements in an interview granted to (Jacques Francilon), assistant director of the French newspaper LE FIGARO. He told (Francilon) that despite the differences regarding the Central American problem, Mexican-U.S. relations have been positive.

In the interview, President De la Madrid also assessed the economic achievements of 1986, a year he described as the worst in our contemporary economic history. He conceded that the standard of living of Mexicans has dropped due to external effects and also internal structural problems. However, he added that compensatory social measures have been taken. He recognized the maturity and responsibility with which the Mexican people faced the crisis.

De la Madrid also spoke about the PRI. He was clear in noting that the party's strength and unity are not at risk. He said that as a party that includes many classes, it resolves problems of differences of opinions within the party. He added that this administration has made a true effort for political renewal, allowing Mexico to have more controversy, criticism, and negotiation.

In conclusion, by praising the work done by the Contadora Group to achieve peace in Central America, President De la Madrid noted that the differences in opinions between Mexico and the United States are due to the fact that the two countries have different degrees of economic and social development.

OIL OFFICIAL DISCUSSES U.S. RESERVE CONTRACT

PA150221 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Apr 87 pp 1, 10

[By Julio Hernandez Lopez]

[Text] Energy under secretary Jose Luis Alcudia said yesterday that Mexico will not sell more oil for the U.S. strategic oil reserve.

During an interview after a meeting on energy conservation held at the Mexican Oil Institute, Alcudia said: "We will not arrange any new contracts."

Alcudia said that Mexico will only supply the agreed upon amount, 60,000-65,000 barrels per day, "with an option to increase the amount to 75,000 barrels, which is established in the contract."

"We will not sign any new contracts," he said today. Alcudia, who will represent Energy Secretary Alfredo Del Mazo, will direct the closing meeting at San Lazaro Legislative Palace on conserving energy. The meeting was organized by the Chamber of Deputies. Alcudia termed "postive" the price strategy developed by OPEC -- in which Mexico is an observer -- since December 1986.

Alcudia said that the prices of Mexican oils change "every day," but the current average prices are above $15.50 per barrel for the Maya and Istmo types. In addition, Alcudia said that Mexico will maintain this price and the restrictions established in the OPEC agreements "so long as necessary for prices to recover and so we can defend the country's interest through oil prices."

Alcudia added that "the structural imbalance in the international hydrocarbons market still persists; the capacity to produce is greater than demand, and in such conditions, our country decides on an export strategy compatible with the international market, price stability, and what is best for Mexico." Alcudia also denied that the Pemex (Mexican Petroleum) debt is being renegotiated. Actually, he said, we are adjusting the terms of support for the negotiation of securities that Pemex normally deals with on the international market.

Concerning the readjustment of objectives in the production and sale of hydrocarbons, Alcudia said that "objectives have to be readjusted because we do not need an export capacity that will upset the international market." He explained that "we make do with the volume needed to maintain market stability, and, therefore, the best prices for us. [sentence as published] If we did the opposite, that is, if we produced and exported more, we would bring prices down and we ourselves would suffer."

DEFENSE SECRETARY COMMENTS ON DRUG CAMPAIGN

PA141831 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Apr 87 pp 5, 10

[By correspondent Jose Galan]

[Excerpt] Chetumal, Quintana Roo, 9 Apr -- The lack of exchange between U.S. and Mexican authorities has led the U.S. Senate "to accuse us of devoting very little or hardly anything to fighting narcotics trafficking," and therefore, "it would be highly advisable that they come here to observe our work. I assure you they would be pleased."

This was said by Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, secretary of national defense, before signing with [Quintana Roo] Governor Miguel Borge Martin a development agreement for approximately 7.36 billion pesos.

Arevalo Gardoqui blamed the accusation on the desk analyses made by the U.S. Congressmen "who are not aware of what the facts are at the actual site of events and the efforts the Mexican Army carries out in permanent coordination with the attorney general of the Republic." These efforts, he emphasized, have resulted in the destruction of 80 percent of the poppy and marijuana plantations in our national territory.

After he and Governor Borge Martin incinerated 14,023 kg of marijuana seized in various operations, Arevalo Gardoqui stated that the drug campaign will be intensified by the national Defense Secretariat. He also reported that last year 8,595 hectares of poppy and 9,103 hectares of marijuana were destroyed. He also disclosed that so far this year, 1,595 hectares of poppy and 708 hectares of marijuana have been destroyed.

Likewise, he emphasized that the Armed Forces under his command have arrested 17,594 Mexicans and 79 foreigners who were engaged in planting and cultivating drugs; have seized 2,593 vehicles, 54 small aircraft, 30,443 weapons, and 11,510.579 tons of packed marijuana; and also destroyed 1,169 illegal clandestine strips. [passage omitted]

NO GORBACHEV VISIT SCHEDULED FOR 'THIS YEAR'

PA161709 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Apr 87 p 2

[By Alberto V. Vieyra]

[Text] CPSU leader Mikhail Gorbachev will not visit our country this year. However, the strengthening of bilateral relations will be maintained through the upcoming visit of Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor to Moscow.

That information was given yesterday by Mr Boris Krotskov, the chief editor of SPUTNIK magazine and representative of the Soviet press.

At a press conference, Krotskov said that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will not visit Mexico this year. Gorbachev had been invited by President Miguel de la Madrid.

Krotskov said that he did not know whether President de la Madrid was going to visit the Soviet Union in response to an invitation made by Gorbachev.

However, he stressed that the relations between the two countries are very good and that there are many areas of agreement on foreign policy matters, such as the rejection of nuclear armament.

Krotskov pointed out that the Soviet Union has openly supported international proposals promoted by Mexico to modify the international economic order. Likewise, it has supported the search for negotiated solutions to international conflicts that our country has proposed.

Mr Krotskov said that a De la Madrid-Gorbachev meeting -- whenever it takes place -- will be very positive not only for the two nations but also for the entire world, because the various agreements of the two governments on foreign affairs matters could contribute to modifying the current state of international conflicts.

He mentioned the recent visit that Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made to Mexico. Such an event had never taken place in the history of the two nations. Now, Mexican Foreign Secretary Sepulveda will visit Moscow in response to his counterpart's visit to our country.

Regarding the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, Krotskov said that despite the policy of rapprochement toward the Western Hemisphere that his government is promoting, the Reagan administration is hindering good understanding.

Krotskov added that the Soviet espionage case in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was surely organized by the United States itself to prevent the improvement of relations between the two powers.

COSTA RICA

MEXICAN PAPER INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT ARIAS

PA170040 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 13 Apr 87 pp 1, 17

[First part of report on interview with President Oscar Arias Sanchez by special correspondent Miguel Medina y Cruz in San Jose on 12 April]

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Sanchez told UNOMASUNO that Central America is tired of empty promises and words. We need facts and actions that will enable us to consolidate peace in the region and that will guarantee a reducation in the arms buildup and the withdrawal of foreign forces, which only contribute to increasing military actions and insecurity in the entire hemisphere.

Arias Sanchez said the economic situation in Central America is worsening due to the current instability, adding that it is a universal axiom that without peace, there is no economic development.

Arias Sanchez said the various problems confronted by its neighboring countries are already causing negative effects in Costa Rica, which is why his country is "desperate" for peace.

Arias Sanchez stressed that the Central American peoples have hoped to see the Contadora and Support Groups efforts succeed; however, 4 years have passed without any results. Therefore, a new peace plan has been proposed, with the intention of continuing the struggle when the Contadora Group efforts seem to have less possibilities of success.

Asked about the contents of the proposal, President Arias Sanchez said it is based on the need to guarantee democratic electoral processes in the area; the supervision and reduction of the arms buildup; the withdrawal from the region of foreign troops, which contributed to the military escalation in the isthmus; the supervision of all guerrilla forces, which must lay down their weapons, freedom of speech in the media; and the "clean and honest" election of a Central American parliament.

Asked by this reporter why he thinks all previous peace projects for the region have failed, the Costa Rican president said it is mainly because of the difficulty in reaching a consensus, which is not an easy task because each country has its own concerns and problems that must be given priority. Therefore there has been a lack of flexibility and willingness to compromise in reaching a consensus, Arias Sanchez said.

Regarding his peace proposal, Arias Sanchez said he is very optimistic because of the support received from organizations that have tried to solve the Central American problem and from the U.S. Congress. Arias Sanchez said he believes the plan will be implemented, but "as in the case of a boxer," no one can claim victory until the last minute of the final round. This will be at the meeting in Esquipulas, Guatemala, where the commitment and the sincerity of all the Central American countries will be put to a test "after so much has been said for so long that peace must be achieved as soon as possible in Central America."

Final Part of Interview

PA170042 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Apr 87 pp 1, 17

[Final part of report on interview with President Oscar Arias by special correspondent Miguel Medina y Cruz in San Jose on 12 April]

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias asserted: My peace proposal is not an inflexible report on the Central American conflict. It is one of the latest historic efforts to achieve stability in the area, prevent further bloodshed among brothers, and prevent further fatal undermining of our nations' economies, which are already in precarious shape.

Arias also said the purpose of his trip to Europe is to be able to explain to the Europeans the details of his peace plan and thus get their support. The plan has already received support from the Contadora Group, its Support Group, and the U.S. Congress.

Referring to this, Arias said his trip to Europe will help his peace proposal succeed at the Esquipulas meeting in Guatemala.

This reporter later asked the president if he believes Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will attend the meeting, and he answered: "The meeting will be useless if the five Central American leaders do not come to Esquipulas."

Asked what is the difference between his peace plan and the plan proposed by the Contadora Group, the Costa Rican president answered: "The difference is basically in the emphasis given to political matter." He added that perhaps the plan is not the last opportunity for Central America, but he thinks it is surely one of the last historic opportunities. "Consequently, it is time to act; Central America no longer wants to hear just words; it wants to see real actions."

Referring to the presence of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary forces in his country, Arias Sanchez categorically denied his government currently allows the presence of contra troops in his country. He said Costa Rica is very strict about this because any action against its neutrality would be detrimental to his proposal. He made it quite clear that Costa Rica had previously allowed Nicaraguan political meetings in its territory because it is traditionally a tolerant country and grants asylum. He emphasized, however, that [Costa Rica is tolerant] only concerning political matters. Consequently, Commander Adolfo Calero was not allowed to enter the country to participate in the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) meeting held some time ago, because he is a military leader in the organization.

In conclusion, the Costa Rican president asserted his country is not afraid of an invasion by any army or any country, so Costa Rica will not organize an army or arm itself.

EL SALVADOR

SPECIAL STATUS SOUGHT FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS IN U.S.

PA170116 Paris AFP in Spanish 2105 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Washington, 16 Apr (AFP) -- The Salvadoran ambassador here has told AFP that Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte asked for U.S. President Ronald Reagan's help to prevent the massive deportation of Salvadorans living in the United States when the new immigration law becomes effective. Ambassador Ernesto Rivas Gallont, who returned from El Salvador this week, delivered Duarte's letter on the matter to Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. Today he said he felt "cautiously optimistic" the U.S. President would intercede for the Salvadorans. The U.S. State Department declined to comment on the communication between the two governments.

Duarte wants U.S. authorities to grant "voluntary delayed departure" status to Salvadorans illegally staying in the United States. This status would allow those citizens affected by the Salvadoran civil strife to remain in this country until the conflict ends. Although Poles, Iranians, Ugandans, and other nationalities have been granted this status, U.S. authorities have always denied it to Salvadorans because they are considered immigrants of economic rather than political necessity.

Moreover, Rivas Gallont said President Duarte will travel to the United States on 30 April. Duarte will address the World Affairs Council in Monterey, California on 1 May. He will then return to his country. [passage omitted]

MILITARY REPORTS OPERATIONS IN MORAZAN AREA

PA142317 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Apr 87 p 28

[Text] San Miguel, 13 Apr -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces had a very active weekend in northern Morazan and San Miguel. Over 2,000 soldiers of Military Detachment No 4, the 3d Infantry Brigade, the Arce Battalion, and Military Detachment No 3 are conducting a joint operation in that region. Military reports say there were fierce clashes with the ERP [People's Revolutionary Army], and there were dead among the terrorists and wounded on both sides.

Military Detachment No 4 troops were involved in heavy clashes from Saturday night until early yesterday morning in Las Pinas Canton in Sociedad, Morazan Department. Five rebels were killed and six wounded in these clashes. Rifles, ammunition, and other materiel were confiscated. It was reported the clashes were with ERP forces that were fleeing toward La Union Department. The reports say nine soldiers were killed.

In another clash, 3d Infantry Brigade Troops surrounded ERP columns in Mayguera, located between Yamabal and Guatajiagua. The guerrillas, who tried to flee, suffered dead and wounded. Helicopter gunships provided assistance, and military sappers defused booby traps.

It was reported the Arce Battalion fulfilled an exhaustive mission. With its command units, it reached the border areas and clashed with fleeing terrorists.

In addition, the battalion, following a combing operation, dislodged rebels from Jocoto Seco and Naguantique, located in the Rancho Quemado area, and from the foot of the Colomancagua Hills. The soldiers discovered and temporarily occupied abandoned guerrilla camps there. The Army found caves that serve as resting places. Also found were caches of weapons, medicines, foodstuffs, office equipment, drinking water reserves, etc. The troops discovered evidence the caves had been used as hospitals for injured and recuperating guerrillas. The Army confiscated everything found. Those things that could not be moved were destroyed.

The reports explain the Armed Forces are employing a new offensive tactic against the guerrillas. This tactic includes small units that are used on an alternating basis; they are sent to different parts of northern Morazan, San Miguel, and La Union to dislodge rebel forces. As the rebels move to another area, they are intercepted by other Army units waiting to trap them. Military Detachment No 4 and Arce Battalion spokesmen said this mode of combat is increasing Army superiority.

FMLN Attacks Army Position

PA101912 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Apr 87

[War bulletin of the FMLN Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] An FMLN unit attacked and annihilated the enemy position in Santa Clara, San Vicente Department, at 0200 on 9 April. This enemy position was composed of the 2d Company of 105-mm howitzers, the 2d Battery of the artillery brigade assigned to the 5th Infantry Brigade, and a section of the Jiboa Battalion numbering approximately 30 paramilitary men. This enemy position is located only 9 km southwest of San Vicente, headquarters of the 5th Infantry Brigade, and only 13 km from the genocidal National Guard in San Idelfonso. This position had the following defensive system: a circular defense of six casemate-type trenches, a circular communications trench, a mine field in a forward position, and forward positions 100 and 500 meters from the main position. It also had posts at all the entrances to Santa Clara.

Our attack began at 0200 against all enemy positions with concentrated rifle, grenade, and support-weapons fire. A few minutes after fighting began, we stormed the enemy positions. After 3 hours of fighting, we seized control of most of the enemy positions. As a result of this successful operation, we inflicted 60 casualties: 26 dead and 34 wounded. The dead included Mario Lopez Figueroa, a [words indistinct] sergeant, two other sergeants, section chiefs, and four corporals.

In this operation, our forces seized the following weapons: 1 60-mm mortar with 3 grenades, 1 50-caliber machinegun with 200 rounds, 1 M-60 machinegun with 500 rounds, 1 [word indistinct] machinegun with 200 rounds, [words indistinct]. In addition, we totally destroyed a 105-mm cannon, a [word indistinct] military truck, rifles, and light support weapons.

On our part, we report the heroic death of our comrade, Edwin. (Glory) to the best sons of the people. Comrade Edwin was present in our campaign For the Achievement of Bread, Justice, Work, and Freedom. All the People Take Up Arms!

FMLN Claims 69 Army Casualties

PA130407 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] According to a war bulletin on the wearing out of the enemy operation in Morazan Department, at 0100 on Saturday, 11 April, an FMLN battalion attacked positions of a Lenca Battalion company in the Bramadero and El Tizate area, Joateca Jurisdiction. The clash lasted 5 hours. The enemy troops, the so-called Arce Battalion, suffered 21 casualties, including dead and wounded.

On 10 April, our guerrillas damaged a helicopter of Duarte's Air Force in the Torola area -- another ugly bird whose feathers were seared by our forces. The report adds that on Thursday, 9 April, an FMLN mortar gun fired several 81-mm shells on 105-mm howitzers the Army had positioned at Meanguera Bridge on the Torola River. The effectiveness of our rebel mortar forced the Army's howitzers back to Osicala, south of the Torola River.

To summarize, in 11 days of combat, from 1 to 11 April, in Morazan Department we inflicted 69 casualties, including dead and wounded, on the Arce, Morazan, and Cacahuatique Battalions and damaged a helicopter of Duarte's Air Force in the Torola area.

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES DENOUNCE 'SLANDER CAMPAIGN'

PA150400 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0201 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran Armed Forces today denounced a slander campaign by several national and international news media against that Central American country.

Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, Armed Forces public relations official, said "the news media are discrediting Honduras because that is a way of getting at the Reagan administration." The officer explained that the U.S. press "magnifies" any news event involving Honduras and the United States in a negative way, "because in this way they slant public opinion and politicians against Reagan."

He added that "the U.S. news media are trying at all costs to involve the Honduran Armed Forces in the Iranian arms sale scandal and the channeling of funds to the Nicaraguan contras." He said Honduras is in the midst of "a political struggle between Republicans and Democrats in the United States, only because in some unofficial way it has served as point of contact for the United States in its help to the contras."

He complained that the international media, especially from Mexico and Europe, as well as some from Honduras (he did not specify which), "repeat the statements made by the U.S. media, thus damaging the image of Honduras and its Army."

Suarez Benavides warned that "soon the Mexican press is going to make a show [preceding word in English] with alleged leftist guerrilla fighter Doris Rosibel Benavides," who sought asylum in the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa and traveled to that country on Saturday.

Rosibel had been accused of being a member of a recently destroyed guerrilla cell of the "Lorenzo Zelaya" National Liberation Movement in San Pedro Sula, in the northern part of the country.

NICARAGUA

CARRION REPORTS CONTRA PLANS TO DISRUPT IPU

PA160145 Havana International Service in Spanish 0015 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice Interior Minister Luis Carrion has reported in Managua the existence of a counterrevolutionary plan to sabotage the 77th IPU Conference, which will be held in that capital from 27 [as heard] April to 2 May.

Carrion told local television the Nicaraguan state security corps have information to the effect that counterrevolutionary elements directed by the U.S. CIA will try to bring in explosives to use against delegates to the meeting.

At the same time, the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry has called for revolutionary surveillance and noted that it is adopting all necessary measures to neutralize the CIA's terrorist plans.

EPS REPORTS OVER 100 CONTRA CASUALTIES IN MARCH

PA122000 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] We report from Region 1 that the EPS has inflicted more than 100 casualties on the counterrevolutionary gangs during March, according to Maj Emerson Velasquez, head of EPS political section in Region 1.

At a news conference in Esteli, Velasquez also referred to the military reserve law. He said it is up to the EPS to call citizens to military reserve service. Citizens from Region 1 should report for a medical checkup. Afterwards, they will be called up for military training, which will last 1 month, according to Majo Velasquez.

The reserve units at Region 1 are located in Jalapa, Ocotal, Somoto, Condega, Pueblo Nuevo, and Esteli.

VICE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN

PA160148 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Vice President Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado met on Monday with a delegation of U.S. Republican congressmen, led by Hamilton Fish and Bill McCollum -- both members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law.

The delegation met with Vice President Ramirez to analyze the situation of the Miskitos and the citizens who abandoned the country to live in the United States but who now want to return to Nicaragua. During the meeting they also brought up the situation of people who have been moved from one place to another within the country.

Referring to foreign policy, the U.S. congressmen said Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace proposal represents a possibility for achieving peace in Central America. Likewise, Congressman Fish said he signed the Slakree Document, which 110 congressmen signed. The document expresses support for Arias' plan.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON HONDURANS' ASYLUM

PA160254 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Apr 87 p 2

[Excerpt] Oscar Ramon Tellez, director of the Foreign Ministry's Central American Department, said yesterday that the asylum recently granted Honduran soldiers does not adversely affect relations between the two countries. Tellez made this remark after presenting the two young men who had deserted from the Honduran Army.

"This is a humanitarian action, and it should not adversely affect relations between the two countries," Tellez told journalists who filled the Foreign Ministry's halls to talk with the refugees. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

NEW MEAT, GRAIN PRICES -- As of yesterday, the prices of basic grains and meat in mixed supermarkets and workers supply centers were raised. A gallon of milk now costs 1,600 cordobas, 1 lb of pork now costs 1,950 cordobas, and 1 lb of meat jerky now costs 935 cordobas. In addition, 5 lbs of rice cost 5,000 cordobas and a 5-lb bag of sugar costs 1,670 cordobas. Very high taxes were imposed on liquor and cigarettes as well. The government has increased the prices and taxes of these products so producers can meet production costs. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Apr 87 p 5 PA]

WAGE INCREASE -- The Nicaraguan Labor Ministry has authorized a general wage increase, which, depending on the wage scale, varies between 46 and 100 percent over the old level. The increase went into effect on 1 April. [Summary] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Apr 87 p 6 PA]

RADIO REBELDE RECALLS U.S. ATTACK ON LIBYA

FL152005 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. B-26 planes took off from Happy Valley Base on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast on a day like today 26 years ago to bomb the Cuban airports in San Antonio de los Banos, Ciudad Libertad, and Santiago de Cuba. This attack turned out to be the prologue for the foiled Bay of Pigs punitive expedition. The cowardly and treacherous attack claimed dozens of Cuban lives. One of them, Eduardo Garcia Delgado, wrote the name of the top leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel, with his own blood.

One year ago, on a day like today, the United States launched another similar vandalic action against Libya, an Arab country located in northern Africa. We all recall the bombings of Tripoli and Benghazi by 18 F-111 planes based in the UK and supported by another group of planes that took off from U.S. 6th Fleet carriers stationed in the Mediterranean Sea.

A quarter of a century after the U.S. attack on Cuba, the United States used the same procedure to attack Libya, a small country with only 3 million inhabitants.

What crime did Cuba commit to deserve the surprise attack? Cuba simply decided to remove itself from the imperialist tracks; refused to yield to the imperialist blackmailing policy; and had decided to exercise its right to self-determination.

What did Libya do? Libya simply ordered the closure of the U.S. bases in 1971.

Just like in the days when he played secondary roles in Hollywood movies, President Reagan drew his revolver and aimed at Libya. It was a typical act of state terrorism that can only be compared to the landing in Grenada, the hijacking of an Egyptian plane in flight, and putting a price on the head of a Palestinian leader.

Reagan allows terrorism and he has become a terrorist. He has used the power of a nation to attack another nation without a previous declaration of war, thus violating every rule of international law.

In face of such actions as the ones we recall today, 15 April, Regan must remember that: He who sows the wind, shall reap the whirlwind.

FERNANDEZ WELCOMES PAN-AMERICAN GAMES ORGANIZERS

FL160110 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] A large group of officials belonging to the committee organizing the Pan-American Games in Indianapolis arrived in Havana this morning. Mark Miles, president and main officer of the committee, and Indianapolis Chief of Police (Paul Anee), are heading the American delegation. Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, president of the INDER [National Institute of Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation] welcomed the visitors on their arrival.

The group also includes (Milton Thompson), (Richard Watkins), (James Haviger), (Samdy Nap) and (Thomas Eagleton), vice presidents of the Pan-American Games organizing committee. The American officials will meet with high-ranking INDER and COC [Cuban Olympic Committee] officials. They will tour sports areas, the Manuel Fajardo Higher Institute of Physical Culture, the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, and Playas del Este. They will also (?visit) Havana installations proposed for use in the 1991 Pan-American Games, and hold a news conference for the Cuban press. Their visit will end on Saturday, 18 April.

USSR DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS OIL INSTALLATIONS

FL152233 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1420 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Vladimir Popov, USSR deputy minister of petrolelum refining, has visited important installations, belonging to the petroleum derivatives enterprise in Santiago de Cuba, as well as other installations currently under construction. Among these are the plant that recycles used oil and the new refinery. The latter is of great importance to this country because if the first stage is built on schedule it will be able to process 465,000 tons of oil in the second half of the year.

CASTRO CONGRATULATES KIM IL-SONG ON BIRTHDAY

FL161608 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a congratulatory message to comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party and DPRK president, on the occasion of his 75th birthday. The message stresses the solid ties of friendship and cooperation between our two peoples and advises Comrade Kim Il-song that the Cuban Council of State has decided to bestow on him the Playa Giron Order to acknowledge his extraordinary efforts in the struggle against imperialism, for peace, for the progress of mankind, and for his constant help in the defense of our fatherland and solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro also attended a reception given by DPRK Ambassador to Cuba Pak Yong-ae on the occasion of DPRK President Kim Il-song's 75th birthday.

MALMIERCA MEETS YASIR 'ARAFAT IN HARARE

PA151911 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca analyzed in Harare their points of view about a call to hold an international conference on the Middle East with PLO participation. 'Arafat sent greetings to Cuban President Fidel Castro through Minister Malmierca and reiterated his appreciation for the constant Cuban support of the unity of the Palestinian people.

Malmierca and 'Arafat are in Harare attending the conference of the ministers of the nonaligned countries committee, composed of nine countries, which is analyzing the Middle East situation.

The meeting will be closed today after 2 days of sessions.

BRAZILIAN ECONOMISTS HOLD MEETING IN HAVANA

FL152209 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2029 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Cuban and Brazilian economists attending their first meeting here agree the foreign debt is unpayable and the only solution to the crisis in the region lies in concerted action. Renato de Silva, president of the Federal Council of Brazilian Economists, believes that unity and joint action also makes it possible to convey our countries requests to the creditors from a coherent position.

The first meeting of Brazilian and Cuban economists began today at Havana's Palace of Conventions and will end tomorrow, Thursday. They are discussing an agenda that includes the foreign debt and the training of economists in the two countries. The Brazilians have expressed interest in learning of Cuba's experience with peoples governments.

ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT REVIEWS PLANNING DOCUMENT

FL151615 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The document that will serve as a guideline for our country's planning system was thoroughly reviewed by the Economics Department of the party's Central Committee. Lionel Soto, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, was present at the meeting and spoke of the document's importance. Soto said this document includes the most important aspects of the new ideas gathered around the country on the principle of a central planning directorate, a consubstantial element of socialism that represents the interests of our society.

BALAGUER PRESIDES OVER HOLGUIN EDUCATION MEETING

FL152032 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1519 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The topics of teaching well and acting independently in higher education were the center of debate during the first meeting between members of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and the UJC [Union of Young Communists] in the Higher Technical Institute of Holguin. The meeting was chaired by Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee.

The deficiencies that prevent the training of highly-skilled technical cadres was clearly stated during several speeches. The delegates also discussed the best use of time and the dedication required to fulfill tasks.

Several of the 200 delegates said the teaching staff should be examples. In reference to this, Balaguer said the task currently requires dedication from the students and teaching personnel. He said dedication to education and study promotes quality in the training of professionals.

ST LUCIA

PEOPLE TO GO TO POLLS FOR SECOND TIME 30 APR

FL140037 Bridgetown CANA in English 0024 GMT 14 Apr 87

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, April 13, CANA -- St Lucians will go to the polls in general elections for the second time this month on April 30 Prime Minister John Compton announced tonight.

Compton went on radio and TV following today's dissolution of Parliament by Governor General Sir Allen Lewis, in response to the St Lucia leader's concern that his slender one-seat majority coming out of last Monday's poll had left his United Workers Party (UWP) government and the country as a whole susceptible to instability and manipulation.

Compton's UWP won nine of the 17 parliamentary seats, with the remainder going to businessman Juilian Hunte's St Lucia Labour Party (SLP). Compton said the April 30 poll was therefore vital to ending the current state of uncertainty, which had been characterised by opposition attempts to lure certain UWP parliamentarians to cross the floor.

"The SLP was determined to get by treachery what it did not get in free and fair elections," the 60-year-old leader declared.

He accused the SLP leader of offering one UWP MP "monetary enticement to defect," shortly after the last election.

"This approach of course was firmly rejected and within hours it was reported to me in person by the person who was approached." Compton said two other UWP parliamentarians were targetted for a similar approach.

Compton said that in view of the closeness of the poll he had offered to form a national unity government with the SLP, but failed to get the response he expected.

He blamed complacency among the electorate for the April 6 election results, noting that 33,000 of the registered people did not vote. Only 50,578 of the 83,000 registered electorate voted.

While the UWP got the majority of the votes, this was not well reflected in the number of seats, he said, and the results had led to a "distortion in Parliament -- a distortion of the will of the people and it means that the strength of the opposition is completely out of proportion with the number of votes they received..."

This would have been all right if the SLP were prepared to accept its position as a minority party in government, Compton said, but instead "their stated intention is to gain control of the government by whatever means they can."

The forthcoming poll was giving St Lucians a second chance, he said, and this time "I want to hear your voices loud and clear."

GOVERNMENT ACCEDES TO UNION'S BACKPAY CLAIM

F1132308 Bridgetown CANA in English 2037 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 12, CANA -- The newly re-elected government of Prime Minister John Compton says it will give civil servants the remainder of a backpay award over which they were prepared to take industrial action.

According to a government statement, [the] cabinet has accepted the recommendation of the Ministry of Finance, that with prudent cuts in expenditure, and with very careful expenditure control, the claim of the public services union for full retroactive payment can be met without serious damage to the economy.

Earlier this year, government paid out two million dollars (one EC dollar - 37 U.S. cents) or 75 per cent of the back pay to public servants, and said this was its final offer.

However, public servants union said they were prepared to take industrial action if necessary, to obtain the remaining 25 per cent, and gave government one month to settle the wage bill.

Government said that it must be clearly understood that this decision will involve some areas of sacrifice, and that the adverse impact can be avoided only by firm financial discipline and cost expenditure control.

The announcement was a surprising one from the government which was re-elected last Monday by a one-seat majority.

Meanwhile, a new session of the St Lucia Parliament opens on Monday. This is when Governor General Sir Allen Lewis will deliver the throne speech outlining government's plans for the 1987-88 financial term.

A government spokesman said that for a change the presentation of the budget will not follow the throne speech, as the mechanics of printing the documents cannot be completed in time.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

IMF TEAM PLEASED WITH ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

FL101757 Bridgetown CANA in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, April 10 CANA -- The economy of St Vincent and the Grenadines is expected to grow by four to five per cent this year and next year, according to projections by a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), following a recent review of the national accounts here.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance James Mitchell, who held discussions with the IMF officials, said they expressed satisfaction with the performance of the economy and were pleased with the economic strategies being pursued by his administration now into the third year of its term of office.

Mitchell said the officials endorsed proposals to utilise funds from the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) buttressed by funds from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for mortgage financing through the National Commercial Bank (NCB).

I have heard comments from previous people in the management of the IMF who have now left saying that was a very irresponsibile position for me to adopt. I am glad to see those who know about the management of financing consider it a move in the right direction, Mitchell declared.

However, the IMF team noted that the rate of wage increases in the country was outstripping the inflation and warned that it could lead to lack of competitiveness in production costs.

MITCHELL DISAPPOINTED WITH ST LUCIA ELECTION RESULTS

FL101433 Bridgetown CANA in English 2029 GMT 9 Apr 87

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, April 9, CANA -- Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines has described Monday's election results in St Lucia as very surprising and said it was a setback to the regional integration movement.

Mitchell said he and his colleagues had taken quite seriously Prime Minister John Compton's statements of the need for them to utilise their two-thirds majorities in Parliament to move towards a federation of the island states in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

He said the election result suggested that the St Lucian electorate did not take the issue of unification seriously or had voted in a manner to indicate that they did not care about it.

You've got to have somebody to unite with and if the people in St Lucia don't want to unite with us its a big question.

I am indeed disappointed but the people of St Lucia know what they want to live with. It's a matter for them, Mitchell said.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OPPOSITION CHARGES GOVERNMENT WITH BLUNDERS

FL061235 Bridgetown CANA in English 2014 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 6, CANA -- The opposition People's National Movement (PNM) launched a scathing weekend attack on the nearly four-month-old government here, accusing it of a series of blunders and of seeking to trample people's rights.

At a Saturday conference, PNM leader Patrick Manning, whose party lost to the NAR [National Alliance for Reconstruction] in a 33-3 seat landslide at last December's general elections, criticised as a mistake the government's February publication of a top secret report naming a wide range of people allegedly involved in the illicit drug trade; the introduction of new health surcharges for pensioners; the removal of retail price index-linked cost of living allowances for public servants; and government's decision to amend the constitution.

Manning and other party speakers accused the ruling NAR of showing a growing tendency to infringe on the country's freedoms through the proposed constitutional change bill, which seeks to rescind appointments made by the Republic's former president.

I call on the attorney general to offer his resignation. That bill is before parliament because Trinidad and Tobago has a vindictive prime minister and an unbridled attorney general, Manning declared.

On the drugs report, which named magistrates, policemen, businessmen and others, PNM senate leader Augustus Ramrekersingh said publication of the document had dragged everybody's name into the mud and made it impossible to tell who was guilty or innocent.

The PNM, whicb had first received the report, had planned further investigation into its contents to gather evidence for prosecution, he said. Ramrekersingh also attacked government for not accepting PNM proposals for additional projects to be investigated by a government-appointed corruption probe.

We in this party are always opposed to corruption, but we cannot accept any commission of enquiry which is selective and they jolly well know why it is selective, Ramrekersingh said.

Accusing government of putting up smokescreens in these matters while avoiding the real issues, Manning asked what had become of development projects in Trinidad while news came in of projects being planned for Trinidad's sister isle Tobago -- the birthplace of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson. The PNM plans a major party convention next weekend.

PRIME MINISTER ANSWERS ADMINISTRATION CRITICS

FL132207 Bridgetown CANA in English 2121 GMT 12 Apr 87

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 12, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson says he knows the names of the five former government ministers mentioned -- but not identified -- in a controversial report on drug abuse but will not yet release them.

In a wide-ranging 90-minute address, Robinson last night strongly attacked critics of his nearly four-month old administration in his first major speech to members of his ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) party.

Sometimes you find all sorts of reactions - hysterical reactions - taking place in this society but you cannot understand these are being artificially generated by some of these characters who have an interest either in protecting the drug trade in bringing about some kind of totalitarian society in Trinidad and Tobago, Robinson said at a meeting held to form a constitution for the 14-month old party. [sentence as received]

Robinson's administration faced one of its first major headaches over promised publication of a report on drug abuse which it did without the names of former government ministers reportedly named in separate transcripts.

Ignoring calls by party members to name the ministers last night, Robinson said he had received the names from the secretary to the Garvin Scott Commission.

(Opposition leader Patrick) Manning say I must not call names therefore the first person to whom I shall reveal those names is to Mr Manning, Robinson said.

The report, an estimated 3.5 billion TT dollar (one TT dollar; 27.7 U.S. cents) deficit, and the need for a budget in the first month in office had been the main problems Robinson said his new cabinet faced.

He said his main regret had been the suspension of a retail price index-linked cost of living allowance (COLA) in the public service describing the measure as the only one to save the nation.

We just don't have the money, Robinson said noting that some of his 13-member cabinet could have been making three to five times the money presently being earned as ministers from their private practices.

Printing more money would be irresponsible, said Robinson adding that other countries taking this path had gone spiralling downwards.

Going to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said Robinson, would turn the country into a pliant state. If we run to Russia, not only do we become a pliant state but we stir up all kinds of trouble because Reagan is not going to like it so..., he remarked.

The world being what it is, we must not get involved in these big power conflicts, Robinson said pointing out that his cabinet would be retreating next week to work out some solutions.

We ask you to understand, firstly as party members, to understand, you cannot have everything overnight. The population must understand that you cannot expect in thirty days from a government in crisis what a previous government could not do in thirty years, said Robinson calling for patience and tolerance and also stressing the need for the creation of an atmosphere conducive to foreign investment.

Robinson said government's human dignity programme -- beginning today -- would start a course of action conditioning the population and creating respect as the basis for the right developmental conditions.

Robinson said it would take some ten years to implement the full promises of the NAR elections manifesto adding his party had only promised integrity legislation, a register of gifts and publication of the drug report in its first 90 days in office.

Robinson also took up other controversies over a report implicating a former finance minister in a sex scandal and government's proposals to amend the Constitution following last-minute appointments by outgoing President Ellis Clarke.

You are right to be tolerant, you are right to accommodate them in our midst, you are right, as far as possible to permit them to live a normal and peaceful life but you must never let them forget that they are the ones responsible for the mess in which this country now is, Robinson said in reference to the opposition People's National Movement (PNM) which ruled the country for thirty years before last December's general elections.

Accusing his opponents of fascism by ignoring the democratic machinery and the government and, therefore, the population of the country, Robinson said the issue had nothing to do with personality but problems in the basic political culture which allowed people to cling to office.

Robinson said the latest issue over amending the Constitution illustrated the problems of political transition.

The Constitution and the way in which it has been framed and the way in which it has worked has affected us from the very beginning, said Robinson.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON DEBT TALKS WITH GUYANA

FL060213 Bridgetown CANA in English 1344 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 3, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana are moving to resolve their debt problem. This was one outcome of talks here between senior officials of the two governments which have just ended here.

Following is the communique issued at the end of discussions:

Following discussions between the honourable A.N.R. Robinson, prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago and his excellency, Cde. Desmond Hoyte, president of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, a nine-man delegation comprising representatives of the private and the public sectors of Guyana visited Port of Spain during the period March 28, 1987 to April 2, 1987.

The Guyanese delegation was headed by Cde. Haslyn Parris, deputy prime minister, planning and development and included Cde. Dharamdeo Sawh, minister of forestry.

Members of the delegation held discussions with the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago: the minister of external affairs, international marketing and tourism: the minister of industry and enterprise: the minister of works, settlements and infrastructure: the minister of food production, marine exploitation, foresty and the environment: the minister of planning and reconstruction: the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association and the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Discussions focused on developing a structural approach for reducing Guyana's indebtedness to Trinidad and Tobago: for expanding bilateral and Caricom trade and for deepening economic co-operation through joint initiatives among public and private sector entrepreneurs with the involvement of non-Caricom partners as circumstances require.

The discussions also dealt with the steps to be taken to effect repatriation of BWIA's Guyana dollar balances. In order to facilitate follow-up action, a joint technical team comprising representatives of both central banks and relevant ministries has been established. Their terms of reference include the requirement to:

(1) Determine the quantum of debt (other than BWIA's debt) identifying its major components and characteristics: and

(2) Identify and evaluate modalities for the retirement of that debt.

This team is required to submit its findings and recommendations to both governments not later than April 30, 1987.

On the question of the unrepatriated balances due to BWIA, it has been agreed that the chief executive officer of BWIA would hold discussions with the central bank of Guyana and other relevant agencies in Guyana. Acceptable solutions are to be formulated by the end of April 1987.

The discussions among the public and private sector agencies identified several possibilities for expanding production, trade and economic co-operation. The opportunities noted for initial action relate to the ceramics industry, the forestry sector, agro-industry and the textiles industry.

It has been agreed that a mission from Tinidad and Tobago will visit Guyana no later than June 1987 to finalise arrangements for the activation of ventures to be jointly executed. In the meantime individual entrepreneurs who have specific projects on which they wish to co-operate are being given every encouragement by the two governments to pursue those intitiatives as expeditiously as possible.

BOUTERSE SAYS 'NO PLANS TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT'

FL141542 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Surinamese military leader Lieutanant Colonel Desi Bouterse says he plans to establish a political party in June in order to participate in the November general elections. However, a news agency quotes him as saying that he has no plans to run for president. Col Bouterse has been in power in Suriname since the 1980 military coup.

JURIST DESCRIBES NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION

FL142137 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Station Commentary]

[Text] This constitution shows features of a program constitution which means that the ideological premises of the political community are embodied therein, as well as the aims of the state and the ways and means to achieve them. The first 9 of the 26 chapters of the document are taken up by this programmatic part. This is typical for constitutions of some Third World countries, thus said Professor (Gundt Ooft), 66, recently retired after having lectured state law for 30 years at the Juridical Faculty of the University of Suriname. Ooft is a member of the technical drafting commission which has put the final touches to the draft constitution which was recently approved by the National Assembly here.

Our previous constitution was a more juridical document like, for instance, the Dutch one, of which it was kind of a reflection. There, basic and human rights were already embodied in the old constitution but not as extensively as in the new one which, incidentally, can stand comparison with any international notation of these rights.

Ooft is the constant factor in the [word indistinct] constitutional development of Suriname having been a member of the commission that drafted the 1975 Constitution with which this republic gained nationhood. He also participated in the 1981 commission appointed by the first post-revolutionary government assigned to draft a constitution to replace the first one which was suspended after the 1980 coup detat. That draft was shelved because neither the contents nor the method of completion was satisfactory, as said government leader Bouterse the other day welcoming the new draft.

Compared with the old Constitution, said Ooft, the main difference in the administration order will be that Suriname will be a decentralized unitary state while it was a centralized one hereto. This will be the case as soon as the 10 lower corporations, the district councils, are elected. The district commissioner, now an executor of the policy (?of) the minister of the interior and district administration, will be the head of the lower corporation with all legal authorities. Ooft views this development as the decolonization of the districts, which will have their own budget and legislative authority. They will be autonomous in regional affairs.

The second difference, continues the professor, is the already mentioned extensive description of principles on which economic and social life will be organized; in particular, the rights of individuals and collectives. Trade union rights, for instance, as part of the social human rights, are codified extensively along with the classical human rights. The main change in the organization of the state is the emergence of a new organ: the council of state.

Said (Ooft): This organ was already in the making for some years and is in fact a typical product of the revolution. It began with the installation of the National Military Council immediately after the coup d'etat. This council governed without a constitutional base. This body has succeeded by the policy center, a mixed military-civilian advisory body with a legal base. When the corporation of the social partners was established, the [words indistinct] took shape, which was joined later by the political parties. This organ has no legal base. This guiding and advisory function will now be constitutionally recorded and attributed to the council of state.

There has been and there will be some debate on the precise role of the council of state, in particular with regard to its relations with the council of ministers. Said (Ooft): I have the impression that the council of state will play a more important role than is now recorded in the (?past). [Words indistinct] guiding the government. There is no obligation of accountability, though, as was wrongly argued by some politicians, of the government to the council of state. This right is reserved for the National Assembly which is the highest organ in the state.

Although less domineering, the military element is still present in the state as part of the council of state along with the social partners. Apart fron constitutional authority, the military will still have a position of power left from the previous situation. This domination will diminish in a transitional period, depending on the action of other organs, especially the National Assembly.

The president will be the chairman of the council of state. He has executive power. That is quite different from the old situation in which the president had a more ceremonial role. The organ which is enfeebled most is the council of ministers, which will be more an executive committee and a less political organ. This also is a result of the revolution, which laid emphasis on people's democracy, said (Ooft).

SECONDARY STUDENTS REFUSE TO RETURN TO CLASSES

FL141939 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Education at several secondary schools today continued to be affected. For unknown reasons, students refused to follow classes. Secondary students had earlier pledged solidarity with the high school students who reached an agreement with the government last week and went back to school yesterday. The chairman of the High School Students Federation states that the secondary school students have no reason whatsoever to stay away from school and the high schools are functioning normally again. In a declaration issued yesterday, the Ministry of Education confirmed normalization of the high schools. The ministry, however, did not mention the problems of the secondary schools. Our newsmen this morning failed in efforts to get a comment from the military. Schools closed for the Easter holidays on Thursday. Two of the three [word indistinct] for this term have been lost because of the student boycott of classes.